Acquired feeding behavior in mallards.—On several occasions the ducks in the J. Rulon Miller wildlife enclosure (McDonogh School, McDonogh, Md.) were fed dry corn meal. This was placed in a pan about fifteen feet from the water. Domestic ducks (pekins and muscovies) ate this without any difficulty but the wild ducks, ten mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and one black duck (*A. rubripes*), after a few coughing noises, returned to their usual occupation of dabbling in the pond. These wild ducks were reared from eggs obtained through the kindness of Mr. E. A. Vaughn, Maryland State Game Warden. On September 16, 1947, it was first noticed that one female mallard had solved the problem of eating this meal. She would scoop up a mouthful, run for the pond, wash it down and hurry back for another load. She made continuous, rapid trips in this fashion. The other mallards at this time took no interest in the meal even when it was moistened with water until crumbly and placed at the pond's edge.

On September 26, the ducks were again offered corn meal. Upon this occasion they were very hungry as they had been fed very sparingly the day before. The female mallard began to feed immediately in the same fashion as before; her peculiar method of running served to distinguish her from the other birds. Several other mallards and one black duck sampled the corn meal. This time they followed it with bits of leaves (black duck) or dirt (mallards), but the results were similar to those observed on earlier trials, they were unsuccessful and soon returned to the pond. In this as in the following trials, any uneaten meal was removed at the conclusion of the experiment.

The next day the ducks were very hungry as they had now been fed only very sparingly for two days. Several mallards were observed to make one or two casual, neither direct, hurried nor persistent, trips to and from the water and the meal. Only one duck was continuously and purposefully running to and from the water, this being the female noted above.

No further attempts were made to speed the learning by withholding food, the food being offered on the dates referred to below. On October 19 three additional mallards were seen to make regular trips to and from the corn meal and the pond. Two others made casual trips and several sampled the meal and returned to the pond without feeding. On October 22 all the mallards almost immediately engaged themselves in regular trips to and from the pond. The black duck, by this time, had apparently lost all interest in the meal. Two mallards, however, continued to eat the meal even though offered whole corn as a choice after they had started feeding on the meal. On November 6 the ducks were again offered corn meal. All the ducks (domestic and wild) made regular trips to and from the water except two young muscovies (about two months old), their mother and three mallards that persisted in staying near the observer. The black duck made only two trips. This was the first time that any of the domestic ducks or the black duck were observed eating the corn meal in this fashion.

These observations, while not complete, do suggest that mallards may, on occasion at least, be slow in changing their food habits and in this respect resemble several other species of diverse habits (see Cushing, The relation of non-heritable food habits to evolution, Condor, 46: 256–271, 1944, for further references).—A. O. Ramsay, *McDonogh School, McDonogh, Maryland,* and John E. Cushing, Jr., *Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.*

Barrow's golden-eye near Waddington, New York.—Barrow's golden-eye (*Bucephala islandica*) is a rare winter visitant on all inland waters of New York, and